

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly replace the present claims by the following set of claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of communicating with an electronic device, comprising:

providing a computer having an audible sound receiving and generating sub-system including a microphone;

transmitting from a source at least one ultrasonic acoustic signal, encoded with information to the computer; and

receiving said at least one signal by said microphone, to be detected by said computer; and
determining a spatial position, distance or movement of the microphone relative to the source, responsive to the received at least one signal.

2. (ORIGINAL) A method of communicating with an electronic device, comprising:

providing a computer having an audible sound receiving and generating sub-system including a microphone and a loudspeaker;

transmitting from a source at least one first acoustic signal, encoded with information to the computer;

receiving said at least one signal by said microphone, to be detected by said computer; and

transmitting to said source, using said loudspeaker, at least a second acoustic signal, encoded with information, in response with said detected signal.

3. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 2, wherein at least one of said at least one first signal and at least a second signal comprise an ultrasonic signal.

4. (ORIGINAL) A method of communicating with an electronic device, comprising:

providing an electronic device having a sound receiving and generating sub-system including a microphone and a loudspeaker;

transmitting from a source at least one ultrasonic acoustic signal, encoded with information, to the electronic device;

receiving said at least one signal by said microphone, to be detected by said electronic device; and

transmitting to said source, using said loudspeaker, at least a second ultrasonic acoustic signal, encoded with information, in response with said detected signal.

5. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 4, wherein said electronic device comprises a computer.

6. (Currently amended) A method of communicating with an electronic device, comprising:

providing a telephone having a sound receiving and generating sub-system including a microphone;

transmitting from a source at least one acoustic signal, encoded with information to the telephone; and

receiving said at least one signal by said microphone, to be used to control said telephone;

and

initiating an operation of the telephone responsive to the received signal, without additional human intervention.

7. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 6, wherein said acoustic signal comprises an ultrasonic signal.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of communicating with an electronic device, comprising:

providing a computer having a sound receiving and generating sub-system including a microphone;

transmitting from a source at least one acoustic signal, encoded with information to the computer; and

receiving said at least one signal by said microphone; and

forwarding an indication of said information to a remote computer, over an Internet,

wherein the at least one acoustic signal comprises a stand alone signal not overlaid on a human tangible signal.

9. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 8, wherein said indication comprises a sound file.
10. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 8, wherein said indication comprises a data file.
11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 8, wherein said acoustic signal comprises an ultrasonic signal.
12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 1, wherein said computer comprises a PDA, personal digital assistant.
13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 1, wherein said computer comprises a portable computer.
14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 1, wherein said computer comprises a desk-top computer.
15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 1, comprising processing said at least one sound by said computer.
16. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 15, wherein processing comprises extracting said encoded information.
17. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 15, wherein said processing comprises determining a distance between said microphone and said source.
18. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 15, wherein said processing comprises determining movement of said microphone relative to said source.
19. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 18 wherein said movement comprises angular movement.

20. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 18, wherein said movement comprises translation.
21. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 15, wherein said processing comprises determining a spatial position of said microphone relative to said source.
22. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 21, wherein said spatial position is a one-dimensional spatial position.
23. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 21, wherein said spatial position is a two-dimensional spatial position.
24. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 21, wherein said spatial position is a three-dimensional spatial position.
25. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 15, wherein said processing comprises emulating a touch screen using said received at least one sound.
26. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 15, wherein said processing comprises emulating a pointing device using said received at least one sound.
27. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 15, comprising controlling at least one action of a toy, responsive to said received at least one sound.
28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 5, wherein said electronic device comprises a wireless communication device.
29. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 4, wherein said electronic device comprises a computer peripheral.
30. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 29, wherein said peripheral comprises a printer.

31. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 4, wherein said device comprises a toy.
32. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 1, wherein said information comprises programming information.
33. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 31, wherein said information comprises music.
34. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 1, wherein said source comprises a toy.
35. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 34, wherein said information comprises stored player input.
36. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 1, wherein said source comprises a smart card.
37. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 1, wherein said source comprises a wireless communication device.
38. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 1, wherein said source comprises a computer.
39. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 1, wherein said source comprises a computer peripheral.
40. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 1, wherein said information comprises personal information.
41. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 1, comprising logging into a computer system responsive to said at least transmitted signal.

42. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method according to claim 1, comprising transmitting at least a second acoustical signal, from the computer, responsive to said received at least one signal.

43 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 2, wherein said acoustic signal comprises human audible sound.

44. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 43, wherein said sound has a main frequency over 10kHz.

45. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 2, wherein said sound has a main frequency which is infra-sonic.

46. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 1, wherein said information is encoded using below human-threshold amplitude signals.

47. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 1, wherein said information is encoded using below human-threshold amplitude variations.

48. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 1, wherein said sound is generated at a frequency outside a normal operating frequency for said sound subsystem.

49. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 1, wherein said sound subsystem is designed for generating musical sounds.

50. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 1, wherein said sound subsystem comprises a sound card.

51. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 50, wherein said sound card comprises a SoundBlaster compatible sound card.

52. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 1, wherein said sound sub-system is designed for audible sound communication with a human operator.

53. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 1, wherein said ultrasonic signal has a main frequency below 50kHz.

54. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 1 wherein said ultrasonic signal has a main frequency below 35kHz.

55. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 1 wherein said ultrasonic signal has a main frequency below 25kHz.

56. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 1 wherein said ultrasonic signal has a main frequency of about 21kHz.

57. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 1 wherein said ultrasonic signal has a main frequency of about 20kHz.

58. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 1 wherein said ultrasonic signal has a main frequency of about 19kHz.

59. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 1 wherein said ultrasonic signal has a main frequency of below 18kHz.

60-86. (CANCELED)

87. (ORIGINAL) A method of determining a status of an electronic device, comprising:
 receiving information encoding acoustic signals generated by said device; and
 analyzing said signals to determine an operational status associated with said device responsive to said information.

88. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 87, wherein said status comprises a status of said device.

89. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 87, wherein said status comprises a status of a second device attached by computer communications with said device.

90. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 87, wherein said status comprises a status of a network that said device is part of.

91. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 87, wherein said analyzing comprises analyzing on a computer separate from a circuitry used for acquiring said signals.

92. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 87, wherein said signals are generated by said device responsive to an interrogation by a second device which performs said receiving.

93. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 92, wherein said interrogation does not interrupt other activities of said device.

94. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 87, wherein said signals are generated by said device independent of an interrogation by a second device.

95. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 87, wherein said signals are sonic.

96. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 87, wherein said signals are ultrasonic.

97. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 87, comprising programming an existing device to generate said signals using an existing speaker which, when the device was designed, was not designated for communication with a second device.

98. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 97, wherein said programming comprises software programming in which only memory storage locations are modified.

99. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 97, wherein said programming comprises hardware programming in which electronic circuitry of the device is modified.

100. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 87, wherein said electronic device comprises a computer.

101. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 87, wherein said electronic device comprises a network hub.

102. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 87, wherein said electronic device comprises a network switch.

103. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 87, wherein said electronic device comprises a network router.

104-144. (CANCELED)

145. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 1, wherein said source comprises a telephone.

146. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 2, wherein said source comprises a telephone.

147. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 4, wherein said source comprises a telephone.

148. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 6, wherein said source comprises a telephone.

149. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 8, wherein said source comprises a telephone.

150. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 1, wherein said information comprises e-commerce information.

151. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 2, wherein said information comprises e-commerce information.

152. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 4, wherein said information comprises e-commerce information.

153. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 6, wherein said information comprises e-commerce information.

154. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 8, wherein said information comprises e-commerce information.

155. (NEW) A method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one ultrasonic acoustic signal comprises a stand alone signal not overlaid on a human tangible signal.